

BLUAC Steering Committee
May 12, 2005 Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Averill at 12:05 PM. Minutes of the April 28, 2005 meeting were discussed as to clarification. After discussion, John Bourquin made the motion to approve the minutes without correction. Carol Venable seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Averill asked if anyone needed a reading of the Minutes of the May 5, 2005. There being no request to read the minutes, Craig Wagner moved the minutes be approved as emailed. Buz Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Chairman Averill asked for a report from the sub-committee on the Sagami allegations. Buz Meyer read the conclusions of the committee (attached) and made a motion that the Steering Committee adopt and ratify the findings of the committee. No second necessary on a sub-committee report. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the Collins Planning Associates Growth Policy Work Plan Visit held May 9th through 11th in Kalispell.

Joe Brenneman commented on the enormous scope of the work involved and the advice from Collins on how to go about getting public involvement. He announced that Jeff Harris had been hired as Director of the Flathead Planning and Zoning Department. Joe noted that our present staff in the Planning Office is talented and enthusiastic.

Clarice Ryan commented that the presentation by Collins was excellent. She felt the Department Heads of Flathead County seemed to take the sessions seriously. Clarice made a presentation to those attending on Fire planning techniques for fire suppression. She noted that communities and rural fire departments were taking fire safety and control very seriously and that pressure should be brought to bear on the Forest Service to do the same.

Doug Averill reported that Pacific Corp will begin soon to thin and clear the south side of their Swan River property. Pacific Corp will wait until the fall to begin work on the north side of the Swan River.

John Bourquin reported that there were 9 to 10 neighborhood planning groups represented at the Collins meetings. He asked if neighborhood plans would be adopted into the Flathead Master Growth Plan. The answer was "probably" and would be contingent on neighborhood plans blending in with surrounding county planning areas. John noted that Flathead County officials were concerned that such issues as road maintenance and park maintenance be addressed in neighborhood planning. Don Hines, Chairman of the Flathead Planning and Zoning Committee, urged neighborhood planning groups keep the county involved in their planning process to avoid delays in approval of neighborhood plans. He reported that B. J., of the Planning Office will keep BLUAC updated on county issues such as cost of services, etc.

Denise Lang asked if there will be better enforcement of zoning regulations. Joe Brenneman said George Smith is the enforcement officer for zoning. He also reassured that when the final Master Plan is complete enforcement will be easier for the county to enforce.

Pat Wagner reported that she had not filed a zoning violation in regard to the buildings moved onto the property on Hwy 35 where the Swan School building was located because the owner is out of town, but will return soon. She has been in contact with the realtor regarding the buildings and will report when she has had the opportunity to sort out the situation.

Paul Guerrant showed a sample of the sheet that may be used for tabulation of the Bigfork Survey. Discussion ensued regarding the logistics of tabulating Survey results and entering results into the SPSS program. Security and auditing of the tabulation process is important to maintain. It was decided that only one computer with Excel and CD burning capabilities be used to enter tabulated figures.

Doug Averill suggested that the next meeting be a work session to begin the tabulation process. This was generally agreed. Other meeting times will be set up to facilitate the process and enable the

committee to bring in more help. People are reminded to bring pens, markers and pencils to the next meeting.

New Business:

Sue Hanson asked if it would be possible to change the weekly Steering Committee meetings to once a month with sub-committees set up to study the many issues facing the community and report once a month. There is concern about losing the momentum of the great participation we have had and belief that we will need weekly meetings to finish the Survey process. It was decided to discuss restructuring after the Survey is done.

Pat Wagner moved the meeting be adjourned. Phil Hanson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Sue Hanson
Secretary